

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-4 (Withdrawn)

Claims 5-29 (Canceled)

30. (New) An apparatus for securing a fin to a sports board, comprising:
- a housing sized and shaped to cover a fin mounting fastener;
 - a first shaft, perpendicular to said housing, sized and shaped to extend within a channel located on a bottom surface of said sports board;
 - a tab located at a first end of said first shaft, said tab sized and shaped to engage a lip of said channel when said apparatus is in a locked position, and to disengage said lip when said apparatus is in an unlocked position;
 - a second shaft, perpendicular to said housing, sized and shaped to extend into said channel; and
 - a locking mechanism for preventing removal of the housing from the sports board when the apparatus is in a locked position and for allowing removal of the housing from the sports board when the apparatus is in an unlocked position.
31. (New) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the first shaft extends from the bottom surface of the housing when the apparatus is in either the locked or unlocked position and the second shaft comprises a retractable deadbolt that extends into the channel when the apparatus is in a locked position, and retracts into the housing when the apparatus is in an unlocked position.
32. (New) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the locking mechanism is used to extend and retract the second shaft.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the second shaft extends from the bottom surface of the housing when the apparatus is in either the locked or unlocked position and the first shaft is rotatable about an axis perpendicular to the bottom surface of the housing.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the locking mechanism is used to rotate the first shaft about the axis.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a depression, said depression located on the bottom surface of the housing, sized and shaped to accept said fin mounting fastener.

36. (New) Apparatus for securing a sports board fin to a sports board, comprising:

means for covering a fin mounting fastener; and

means for locking said covering means to a bottom surface of the sports board.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the means for locking said covering means in place comprises:

a first shaft, perpendicular to said housing, sized and shaped to extend within a channel located on a bottom surface of said sports board;

a tab located at a first end of said first shaft, said tab sized and shaped to engage a lip of said channel when said apparatus is in a locked position, and to disengage said lip when said apparatus is in an unlocked position;

a second shaft, perpendicular to said housing, sized and shaped to extend into said channel; and

a locking mechanism for preventing removal of the housing from the sports board when the apparatus is in a locked position and for allowing

removal of the housing from the sports board when the apparatus is in an unlocked position.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the first shaft extends from the bottom surface of the housing when the apparatus is in either the locked or unlocked position and the second shaft comprises a retractable deadbolt that extends into the channel when the apparatus is in a locked position, and retracts into the housing when the apparatus is in an unlocked position.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the locking mechanism is used to extend and retract the second shaft.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the second shaft extends from the bottom surface of the housing when the apparatus is in either the locked or unlocked position and the first shaft is rotatable about an axis perpendicular to the bottom surface of the housing.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the locking mechanism is used to rotate the first shaft about the axis.

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, further comprising a depression, said depression located on the bottom surface of the covering means, sized and shaped to receive said fin mounting fastener.

43. (New) A method for securing a sports board fin to a sports board, comprising:

covering a fin mounting fastener with an object; and
locking the object to the sports board.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein covering the fin mounting fastener comprises:

placing a housing over the fin mounting fastener by inserting a first shaft protruding from a bottom surface of the object into a channel of the sports board, the first shaft having a tab located at an end distillate from the bottom surface, the tab parallel to the channel.

45. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein locking the object to the sports board comprises:

rotating the object with respect to a channel of the sports board, thereby engaging a tab, located on a distillate end of a shaft protruding from a bottom surface of the object, with a lip of the channel; and

extending a second shaft into the channel, thereby preventing rotation of the object; and

locking the second shaft into the channel.

46. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein covering the fin mounting fastener comprises:

placing a housing over the fin mounting fastener by inserting a first shaft and a second shaft protruding from a bottom surface of the object into a channel of the sports board, the first shaft having a tab located at an end distillate from the bottom surface, the tab parallel to the channel.

47. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein locking the object to the sports board comprises:

inserting a first shaft and a second shaft into a channel of the sports board, the first shaft and the second shaft extending from a bottom surface of the object;

rotating the first shaft around an axis perpendicular to the bottom surface of the object, the first shaft having a tab located at a distill end of the first shaft

from the bottom surface of the object, thereby engaging the tab with a lip of the channel.